



# COLBY FREE PRESS

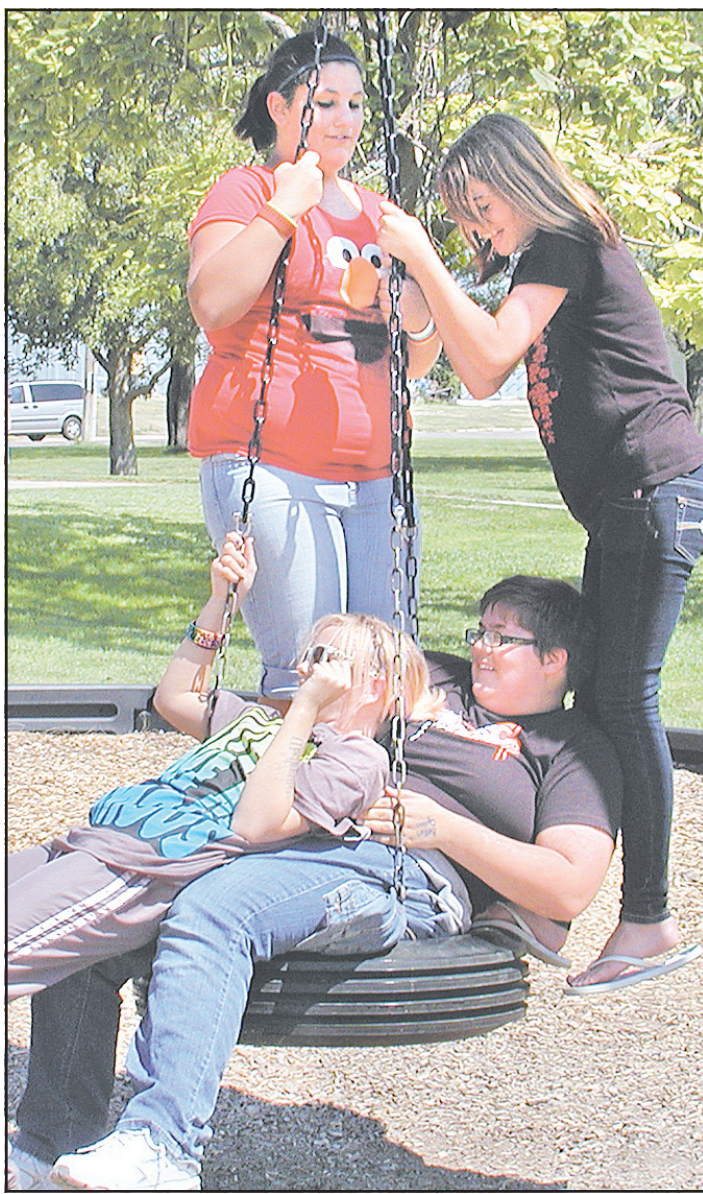
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## Middle schoolers play at Fike Park

Colby Middle School students (above) listened to instructions from Colby High teacher Lesley Wagoner (above right) on Friday during Fike Park Day. The students, split up into their resource room classes, played games and built a human pyramid (below). Some played on a tire swing (right) at the park, which was the destination after a picnic lunch at the school.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press



## Corn fields yield little in drought

By **Stephanie DeCamp**  
The Oberlin Herald  
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Drought has crippled this year's corn crop and if rain doesn't come soon, it may shrivel next year's wheat as well.

Last year, said Diane Barrett, county executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency, Decatur County produced 156 bushels of irrigated corn and 93.7 on non-irrigated corn per acre.

"I would not even want to guess what kind of a yield we may have this year," she said in an e-mail. "The drought has definitely taken its toll on the crops."

"There're fields that basically, there's hardly any corn," said Fred Callander of Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin, "and they won't be picked. They'll just let them stand and leave the residue."

Feeding cows is what most farmers will be doing with the little bit of corn they have, Cal-

lander said. In a dry year, they can still get some nutrition out of it, though farmers must watch for possible high nitrogen content.

"Corn silage quality relates directly to the amount of grain energy it can provide," said Keith VanSkiel, agriculture agent for the Twin Creeks Extension District at the Norton office, "so producers will need to test their fields to determine nutrient availability. This is also a good year to test for feed nitrate, too."

"Insurance adjusters are looking at field strips. Some say zero bushels, some say 17 and some say 30-40 bushels. It depends on subsoil moisture storage and conditions at pollination."

Callander wasn't so optimistic. "It's terrible," he said. "In the 25 years that I've been in this business, this has been the worst I've ever seen it. What they do pick, it'll make 20, 25 bushels an

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## Son follows in father's steps

Visitors to the Bedker Memorial Complex on the Colby Community College campus will see a familiar name above a faculty office door.

Ryan Hale, son of long-time Colby College behavioral sciences instructor Roger Hale, has been hired to teach psychology and serve as the school's counselor.

Ryan will be in the same office his father used prior to retiring. Roger taught for the college from 1966 to 2001.

Ryan graduated from the college in 1994 with an Associate of Science degree in biological science. He continued at Kansas State University, where he earned a Bach-

elor of Science in Kinesiology, and at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo., where he earned a Master of Arts in Kinesiology and a Master of Arts in clinical counseling.

Following graduation, Hale served as an emergency medical technician for 18 years, taught emergency medical students, was a certified athletic trainer for 14 years and had a private counseling

practice and sports medicine service for several years. He has extensive experience in sports medicine. His past and current clients include profes-

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Ryan Hale

## Colby museum plans picture project

By **Christina Beringer**  
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Businesses of Thomas County have a chance to join a picture project that spans 75 years, said Sue Taylor, director of Colby's Prairie Museum of Art and History, mirroring a 1937 effort that produced some historic photos.

She said sponsors hope that every business in the county will step up, have a photo taken and

become a part of history. Pictures will become a part of a permanent record and will be used in a special edition of the *Colby Free Press*.

"We are hoping for 100 percent participation," said Taylor, "but we definitely need at least 100 businesses to sign up..."

The museum is spearheading the project, with help from the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and the Colby Con-

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## Truck convoy this week

The sixth annual Northwest Kansas leg of the World's Largest Truck Convoy will motor into Colby this Saturday, raising money for the Kansas Special Olympics.

Registration for both legs of the convoy starts at 8:30 a.m. (Central Time). The east leg will leave the Mitten TA Travel Plaza in Oak-

land at 10 a.m. The west leg will leave Wilken's Truck and Trailer in Goodland at 9:45 a.m. (Central Time).

The legs will meet on Horton Avenue in Colby, south of Interstate 70, for a parade around town. The parade will go north on Range Avenue (K-25) to Fourth Street, east on Fourth (U.S. 24) to Franklin Avenue (Main Street), south on

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Sue Taylor, director of the Prairie Museum of Art and History, showed off a 1937 photo album commissioned by Farmers and Merchants Bank in celebration of its 50th anniversary. The entire

album of black-and-white pictures can be seen at [www.prairie-museum.org](http://www.prairie-museum.org).

CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press



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